IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings.

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing high purity cobalt comprising the steps of:

converting divalent copper ions as impurities contained in an aqueous solution of cobalt chloride to monovalent copper ions, wherein the converting step comprises injecting an inert gas into the aqueous solution of cobalt chloride and contacting the aqueous solution of cobalt chloride with elemental cobalt;

adjusting a concentration of hydrochloric acid in a range of 0.1 $kmol/m^3$ to 3 $kmol/m^3$; and

separating the monovalent copper ions from the aqueous solution of cobalt chloride by using anion exchange resins.

4. (Original) A method of manufacturing high purity cobalt according to claim 3, comprising the steps of;

converting divalent copper ions as impurities contained in the aqueous solution of cobalt chloride to monovalent copper ions;

adjusting a concentration of hydrochloric acid in the aqueous solution of cobalt chloride in a range of 0.1 $kmol/m^3$ to 3 $kmol/m^3$; and

separating the monovalent copper ions from the aqueous solution of cobalt chloride by using the anion exchange resins after the steps of converting the divalent copper ions to the monovalent copper ions and adjusting the concentration of hydrochloric acid.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing high purity cobalt according to claim 3, wherein impurities of at least one selected from the group consisting of zinc,

technetium, ruthenium, palladium, silver, cadmium, indium, tin, rhenium, osmium, iridium, platinum, gold, mercury, thallium, lead, bismuth, and polonium are separated from the aqueous solution of cobalt chloride in the step of separating the ~~impurity copper~~ monovalent copper ions.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing high purity cobalt according to claim 3, further comprising the steps of[[;]]:

obtaining cobalt chloride or hydrates thereof from the aqueous solution of cobalt chloride which the ~~impurity~~ impure copper ~~are~~ is separated therefrom; and

heating the cobalt chloride or the hydrates thereof from 623 K to less than 873 K in a hydrogen atmosphere to obtain cobalt.

8. (Original) A method of manufacturing high purity cobalt according to claim 7, further comprising the step of melting the cobalt obtained in the heating step with plasma arc using a plasma generation gas containing active hydrogen in order to remove impurities of at least one selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, carbon, sulfur, halogen, alkaline metals, and alkaline-earth metals.

Claims 9 - 11 (Cancelled)

Claims 12- 13 (Cancelled)